PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-captioned application please amend the patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 2, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The complete or whole form of human PTH, (hPTH), is a unique 84 amino acid peptide (SEQ ID NO:1), as is shown in FIGURE 1. Researchers have found that this peptide has an anabolic effect on bone that involves a domain for protein kinase C activation (amino acid residues 28 to 34) as well as a domain for adenylate cyclase activation (amino acid residues 1 to 7). However, various catabolic forms of clipped or fragmented PTH peptides are also found in circulation, most likely formed by intraglandular or peripheral metabolism. For example, hPTH can be cleaved between amino acids 34 and 35 to produce a (1-34) PTH N-terminal fragment (SEQ ID NO:6) and a (35-84) PTH C-terminal fragment (SEQ ID NO:7). Likewise, clipping can occur between either amino acids 36 and 37 or 37 and 38. Recently, a large PTH fragment referred to as "non-(1-84) PTH" has been disclosed which is clipped closer to the N-terminal end of PTH. (see R. LePage et *alia, "A non-(1-84) circulating parathyroid hormone (PTH) fragment interferes significantly with intact PTH commercial assay measurements in uremic samples"* Clin Chem (1998); 44:805-810).--